THE EXAMINER.

No. 84 SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1809

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 84.

NEWSPAPER PRINCIPLE.—(CONCLUDED.)

A hundred years ago, when STEELE, ADDISON, and SWIFT wrote in the cause of party, political dispute exhibited a much more estimable character than at present. I do not say, that there was no misrepresentation, or abuse, or even rancour; for the lower writers were a mere rabble, like the great majority of the present; and among the first disputants of the time, opposition, in wounding pride, too often provoked resentment; jealousy of reputation would sometimes produce a heart-burning which self-interest could not have done; and ADDISON expressly declares in the *Spectator*, that he "never knew any party so just and reasonable, that a man could follow it in its height and violence and at the same time be innocent *:—but the periodical politics of these illustrious men exhibited a strain of virtue and *a reference to dignified principle* scarcely discernible in the present times: the interests of philosophy, of good morals, and of good letters, and the consistencies of public and private character were seldom forgotten; whereas the majority of our politicians are at variance with common sense and honesty, and the best of them content themselves with questions of political right and wrong, or in other words, of expediency. You may read the politics of the day without end, and rise up from the perusal without the smallest additional incitement to virtue, except what your own thoughts may have suggested, or the subject have displayed in *reverse*; the style and the sentiment betray the same gross deficiency; it is in vain that you would recollect some specimen of wit or of wisdom, some thinking deduction from great events, some apophthegm or even phrase of originality, suggested by the perpetual changes about us. The *Edinburgh Review* is the only periodical work in which philosophical deduction forms the least feature—in which any thing like a moral lesson is drawn from all the fables, and farces, and tragedies that occupy the present stage of the world.

The cause of this deterioration is obvious: it arises entirely from the mercantile spirit which I have already described, and which is the sole principle of the publications. In the times of Whig and Tory, most of the leading writers on both sides were independent of Government, and at all events independent of the printer, the bookseller, and the whole tribe of literary hucksters: they delivered therefore their own opinions, and in endeavouring to guide the town, endeavoured to procure as much respect as possible for themselves as individual writers: their habits of life generally gave them a dignified tone, their powers of writing procured them attention, and as the public became personally acquainted with them, their general character at once secured their fame, and animated them to its increase. Rivals of each other in politics, such men necessarily became rivals in wit and in a reputation for integrity; and if in the violence of party they were sometimes driven to be too suspicious of each other's motives, they not only attended scrupulously to their own good name in that particular, but were in general eager to do each other justice, and to manifest a regard for their mutual welfare as men of letters and of virtue. It is worthy of observation, as applicable to the principle so often laid down in this Paper respecting the union of public and private qualities, that SWIFT, who of all the *party* wits except the unprincipled BOLINGBROKE, was the least amiable character in private life, was also the most prejudiced and petulant writer: yet the Tory SWIFT never gave up his intimacy with the Whig ADDISON, he even privately used his influence in favour of STEELE, though he afterwards quarrelled with him past recovery; and of the inflexible independence of his spirit, he thus writes himself at the close of his political life:—"I never received one shilling from the Minister, or any other present, except that of a few books; nor did I want their assistance to support me. I very often dined indeed with the Treasurer and Secretary; but in those days, that was not reckoned a bribe, whatever it may have been at any time since. I absolutely refused to be Chaplain to the Lord Treasurer, because I thought *it would ill become me to be in a state of dependence*†." Let the hireling politicians read this; and, to use the Dean's words on another occasion,

> Pray heartily for some new gift,
> And shake their heads at Doctor SWIFT.

I believe SWIFT to have been fond of power; but meanness and want of honesty he held in utter contempt, and towards Ireland, his native country, he was a most disinterested and undaunted patriot.—ADDISON inculcated the soundest principle in all his writings; he excelled in that amenity of manner which is so indicative of a calm consciousness of right, and this he invariably preserved, even in his keenest satire, except in one instance, towards the close of life, when (observe, hirelings!) he was *flagrantly in the wrong*: it was upon occasion of an attempt to fix the number of Peers beyond increase except in cases of extinction, an attack upon a prerogative very much abused it is true, but a prerogative nevertheless in strict harmony with the Constitution: this attempt STEELE combated in a

* Vol. 6. No. 399,—A paper full of wisdom.

† Preface to the *History of the Four Last Years of Queen Anne*

pamphlet; Addison answered his old friend, and it was at that moment his conscience galled him into an angry impatience, and he was guilty of the mean insolence of talking about "little Dicky, whose trade it was to write pamphlets."* Steele however, whose literary principles were of the most exalted nature, replied with delicate and dignified reproof, and decidedly won the victory. However improvident may have been the habits of this Father of our Essayists, his whole life was distinguished by a generous way of thinking, a scorn of hypocrisy, and a noble tenderness of heart. The letter of resignation which he wrote when he first took a decided part with the Whigs, and voluntarily gave up an office which he was entreated to keep, will be an eternal monument of his disinterestedness and public spirit; he tells the Lord Treasurer very plainly his opinion of Tory principles, and concludes thus:—"Share, my Lord, your good fortune with whom you will; while it lasts, you will want no friends; but if any adverse day happens to you, and I live to see it, you will find, that I think myself obliged to be your friend and advocate. This is talking in a strange dialect to the first man of the nation, by a private person: but to desire only a little, exalts a man's condition to a level with those who want a great deal. I beg your Lordship's pardon, and am, &c. &c." Now I wonder what the Bowleses, and the Dixons, and the Whartons, can possibly think of such conduct; or rather, have they any idea of it? Can they represent to themselves any such writer or placeman as a being of this world? To declare his sentiments when the other party was in the zenith of it's power, to set bribery and flattery at nought, to go out of office when, as the phrase is, there was *no occasion for it*, and to talk to a Prime Minister as if he had no places to bestow,—what are these, but so many præternatural actions, that only serve to strike boys with wonder, and create a sort of night-mare in consciences that cannot wake!

Our former periodical politicians, then, wrote to establish their own opinions and to acquire reputation; our present, simply to get money; and the consequence is, that while the Proprietors of Papers remain as they are, the writers will never be better. Nobody desires common-place maxims of virtue, and trite phrases about honour and patriotism in these men: such a style, as it means nothing, secures nothing on the writer's part, and impresses nothing on the reader. What is wanted, is the habit of *referring every thing to pure principle*, of making truly great men and great virtues the standards of comparison with regard to character, and sacrificing petty interests, or *at least* making them subservient to the great interests of truth and philosophy. But as periodical works are now conducted, neither genius nor virtue are likely to be found among them, for pride will prevent the one, and conscience the other. A man of sense and dignity, who has a respect for his own powers and motives, will never condescend to sit under judgment of a sordid and illiterate newsmonger, who says, "Ah, we must blot out that line, because it will give a side hit against Lord X.;" and "Ah, we must not say any thing about keeping women, because of my Lord W."

It was against such men, with their concealments, contradictions and corruptions, that the Spectator wished to encourage an association of all honest men, who valued truth for it's own sake, and who should "no longer regard their fellow-subjects as Whigs and Tories, but make the man of merit their friend and the villain their enemy;" and it was on this occasion, that he proposed the following Formula of such a Society, which will be received, I hope, with very pleasant recollection on the part of the reader, though it will of course be perused with contempt by all those, who take such pains to inform us of the strength of Spanish forces and Austrian virtues, and who call the Duke of York a great man:—

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed do solemnly declare, that we do in our consciences believe two and two make four; and that we shall adjudge any man whatsoever to be our enemy who endeavours to persuade us to the contrary. We are likewise ready to maintain with the hazard of all that is near and dear to us, that six is less than seven in all times and all places; and that ten will not be more three years hence than it is at present. We do also firmly declare, that it is our resolution as long as we live to call black black, and white white. And we shall upon all occasions oppose such persons that upon any day of the year shall call black white, or white black, with the utmost peril of our lives and fortunes."

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* Lives of the Poets; Art. Addison.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

SPAIN.

Madrid, July 12.—His Majesty is returned to his capital, where he was ardently desired, after an absence of 20 days. He found it in a state of perfect tranquillity. This return has destroyed the absurd conjectures of a small number of malcontents, concerning pretended dangers towards the South. They are obliged to confess that the whole has been dreamt by them and their correspondents, since the King has brought back the troops who had followed him, and whose presence in La Mancha and Estremadura has been rendered unnecessary by the flight of the rebels.

GERMANY.

Vienna, July 13.—The news of the Armistice has spread inexpressible joy here. It is reported that the Emperor is on the point of proceeding to Paris. By virtue of the Armistice, the French troops have occupied Presburg.

Munich, June 18.—When the insurgents of the Tyrol saw the Austrian troops evacuate their country, they sent a deputation to the Bavarian advanced posts, to implore mercy, and offer to deliver up the leaders of the insurrection. Experience has taught what confidence is to be given to offers produced by fear.

ITALY.

ROME, JULY 10.—The *Journal of the Capitol* contains a variety of Decrees of the new Government. One of these abolishes the Tribunal of the Inquisition, and all the establishments attached to it. By another Decree, a great number of especial Tribunals are also abolished, as well as every temporal jurisdiction hitherto possessed by the Clergy, secular and regular. All clerical privileges are annulled. The right of asylum exists no longer; in consequence, the authors or accomplices of crimes will no longer be sheltered from the vengeance of the law. A new establishment is made of Justices of the Peace, &c. all of whom are nominated by the Emperor. By a third Decree, a Committee is appointed for the preservation of all the ancient and modern monuments of Rome, and the Roman States.—This Committee is particularly charged to take precautions for preserving the cupola of St. Peter from lightning; and the paintings of Raphael, which are on the *loggi* of the Vatican, from injuries arising from the air. This Committee consists of Martorelli, Director of the Imperial Archives; Marini, Director of the Library of the Vatican; Canova, and Camuccini.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Last week, Capt. Davison, of the Royal Marines, who has with some short intervals of absence resided at Taunton nearly two years, was on Wednesday the 26th ult. apprehended on a charge preferred against him by Mr. Bunter, a respectable shop-keeper in Taunton, of stealing a few yards of muslin from his shop on the Monday preceding. The prisoner was observed by Mr. Bunter's shop-man to take up the articles in his handkerchief, which he had previously lain upon the counter, and upon searching his lodgings the property stolen was found therein. The prisoner has been 19 years in his Majesty's service—always associated with the most respectable and affluent characters at Taunton and in the neighbourhood, and until this affair, was held in the highest estimation by his brother officers. He is fully committed to Ilchester Jail to take his trial at the Assizes.

The following accident lately happened at Wellingham, near Lewes:—The Rev. Mr. L——, who had been chaplain in the family upwards of 17 years, being in his bed-chamber with the two sons of a Nobleman (to whom he also was tutor), and a loaded pistol lying on a chest of drawers, it was supposed the younger (a lad, about nine years of age), took the pistol to look at, when it unfortunately went off, and shot Mr. L—— in the head: the report brought up the servants, who found the unhappy Gentleman quite dead, and his brains scattered on the floor. The young gentleman being interrogated by the Coroner, strongly insisted that the pistol went off as it lay on the drawers, without being touched, at which time Mr. L. was on the opposite side of the bed.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR JULY.

The wheat crops have generally gone off the bloom well; but in the principal corn districts of Kent and Essex, they are too thin on the ground for a considerable produce: in the Midland Counties they are far more promising. Upon cold clay soils the oats and barleys have not recovered from the heavy rains which proved so injurious to these plants in the spring; but on light lands they promise a full average crop. Beans, Pease, and all articles of the pulse kind, prove generally defective. The harvest will probably prove a late one. Potatoes look promisingly in most counties; but in Ireland, where they are so essential to the sustenance of the people, the crops are likely to prove very light from the drought that has continued so long in that island. The hop plantations have much recovered by the favourable rains, and are expected to turn out half a crop. The meat markets have declined in price considerably in the course of the month; particularly Smithfield, from its abundant supplies. Lean stock continues dear, both in sheep and neat cattle. The wool market has had a further rise for long as well as short wool; and Merino as high as 15s. per lb.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

J. Pearson, Holyhead, stationer, from July 22 to Sept. 9.

BANKRUPTS.

F. Andrus, Brighton, victualler. Attorney, Mr. Barber, Chancery-lane.

J. C. Gill, Snailburgh, Norfolk, grocer. Attornies, Messrs. Windus and Co. Chancery-lane.

W. Collins, Bristol, inn-keeper. Attornies Messrs. Nethersole and Portal, Essex-street, Strand.

J. Forrester, Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, earthenwareman. Attornies, Messrs. Walthall and Ward, Newcastle-under-Lyne.

J. Affleck, Kennington-cross, plumber. Attorney, Mr. Turner, Edward-street, Cavendish-square.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty Office, August 5, 1809.

Copy of a Letter transmitted by Sir James Saumarez:

His Majesty's Ship Implacable, off Percola Point, July 8, 1809.

SIR,

The position taken by the Russian flotilla under Percola point, seemed so much like a defiance, that I considered something was necessary to be done, in order to impress these strangers with that sense of respect and fear, which his Majesty's other enemies are accustomed to show to the British flag; I therefore determined to gratify the anxious wish of Lieutenant Hawkey to lead the boats of the ships named in the margin,* which were assembled at nine o'clock last night, and proceeded with an irresistible zeal and intrepidity towards the enemy, who had the advantage of local knowledge, to take a position of extraordinary strength within two rocks, serving as a cover to their wings, and from whence they could pour a destructive fire of grape upon our boats, which, notwithstanding, advanced with perfect coolness, and never fired a gun till actually touching the enemy, when they boarded sword in hand, and carried all before them.

I believe a more brilliant atchievement does not grace the records of our naval history; each officer was impatient to be leader in the attack, and each man zealous to emulate their noble example, and the most complete success has been the consequence of such determined bravery; of eight gun-boats, each mounting a 32, and a 24 pounder, and 46 men, six have been brought out, and one sunk; and the whole of the ships and vessels (twelve in number) under their protection, laden with powder and provisions for the Russian Army, brought out, and an armed ship taken and burnt. I have deeply to lament the loss of many men killed and wounded, and especially that most valuable officer Lieut. Hawkey, who, after taking one gun-boat, was killed by a grape-shot, in the act of boarding the second. No praise from my pen can do adequate justice to this lamented young man; as an officer, he was active, correct, and zealous, to the highest degree; the leader in every kind of enterprize, and regardless of danger; he delighted in whatever could tend to promote the glory of his country; his last words were, "Huzza! push on! England for ever!"

Mr. Hawkey had been away in the boats on different services, since last Monday, accompanied by Lieut. Vernon, whose conduct in this affair has been highly exemplary, and shewn him worthy to be the companion of so heroic a man; but while I am induced to mention the name of Mr. Vernon, from his constant services with Mr. Hawkey, I feel that every Officer, Seaman, and Marine, has a claim to my warmest praises, and will, I trust, obtain your favourable recommendation to the

* Implacable, Bellerophon, Melpomene, and Prometheus.

Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Lieut. C. Allen, of the Bellerophon, was the Senior Officer after Mr. Hawkey's death.

I have just been informed, that Lieut. Stirling, of the Prometheus, who was severely wounded, is since dead; his conduct in this affair was very conspicuous, and Capt. Forrest speaks highly in praise of the zeal and activity of his services on every occasion. I am sure you will readily believe that Capt. Forrest did not witness the preparations for this attack without feeling an ardent desire to command it, but I was obliged to resist his pressing importunity, as a matter of justice to Mr. Hawkey.

The Russians have suffered severely in this conflict, the most moderate statement makes it appear that two-thirds of them have been killed and wounded, or jumped overboard. Enclosed is a List of killed and wounded, the names of the Officers employed, an account of the vessels captured, and number of the prisoners. I have the honour to be, &c. T. B MARTIN.

To Vice-Admiral Sir J. Saumarez.

List of killed and wounded.

Implacable—6 killed, 17 wounded.
Bellerophon—3 killed, 11 wounded.
Melpomene—5 killed, 6 wounded.
Prometheus—3 killed, 3 wounded.
Total—17 killed, 37 wounded.

Officers killed.—Lieutenants Hawkey and Stirling, and Mr. Mounteney, Midshipman.

[Then follows a List of 26 captured vessels; and an account of Russian Prisoners of War, amounting to 127, of whom 51 were wounded. The Russian Officer reports 63 killed, and the number drowned is very great.]

[A Letter from Capt. Lord G. Stuart, of the Aimable, gives an account of his having landed a detachment of seamen and marines at Cuxhaven, from the squadron under his orders, and sent them in pursuit of a French body of horse, who had the audacity to enter the village of Ritzbuttle on the 26th ult. and very nearly captured several British Officers. Learning that the enemy occupied the town of Gessendorf, which also contained a depot of Merchandize, it was resolved to attack it.—Capt. Goate advanced with a detachment; Capt. Pettet by a circuitous route attacked a battery in flank, and Lord G. Stuart advanced in front, under a very galling fire. On their near approach the enemy however fled, leaving 4 Officers prisoners, the Commandant of the Battery, Monsier Le Murche, a Lieut. and two inferior Officers. The battery guns were burst in pieces, the embrazures demolished, the gun-carriages burnt, together with the magazine, guard-houses, &c. The powder was brought off, together with six waggon loads of confiscated merchandise.—Lord G. Stuart particularly praises all the officers and men employed. Though Gessendorf is 28 miles distant from Cuxhaven, yet the whole detachment, in 24 hours from their departure, returned without the loss of a man.].

BANKRUPTS.

J. Towers, Walsall, Staffordshire, whip-thong-manufacturer. Attorney, Mr. Heeley, Walsall,

R. Joyce, Lamb's-Conduit-street, tailor. Attorney, Mr. Williams, Staple's-Inn.

J. Haywood, Gloucester, haberdasher. Attorney, Mr. Rawlinson, Old South-sea House.

J. Humphrey, Wardour-street, Oxford-street, boot-maker. Attorney, Mr. Mills, Vine-street, Piccadilly.

R. Jamieson, W. Brown, and J. Main, Castle-court, Budge-row, merchants. Attorney, Mr. Setree, St. Mary Axe.

G. Gledstanes, Salisbury-street, Strand, wine-merchant. Attorney, Mr. Hackett, Chancery-lane,

G. Baker, City-road, coach-maker. Attorney, Mr. Hudson, Winkworth-buildings, City-road.

C. Stuart, Paradise-street, Rotherhithe, apothecary. Attorney, Mr. Saward, Prince's-street, Rotherhithe.

R. Jones, Albion-street, Blackfriar's-road, merchant. Attorney, Mr. Turner, Bentinck-street, Cavendish-square.

W. [illegible] Hosier, [illegible] Smithfield, salesman. Attorney, Mr. Lee Castle-street, Holborn

H. Clarkson, Liverpool, porter-dealer. Attorney, Mr. Murrow, Paradise-street, Liverpool.

E. Hood, Eastbourne, coal-merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Langridge and Kell, Lewes.

W. Holmes, Rushall, Stafford, maltster. Attorney, Mr. Marklew, Walsall, Stafford.

J. Teague, Wombridge, Salop, huckster. Attorney, Mr. Morris, Newport, Salop.

H. R. Collard, George-street, St. Martin in the Fields, coal-merchant. Attorney, Mr. Bacon, Southampton-street.

W. W. Hall, Henrietta-street, Hackney-road, bookseller. Attorney, Mr. Rutson, Wellclose-square.

J. Horrocks, Bolton, Lancashire, hawker. Attorney, Mr. Hewitt, Manchester.

CERTIFICATES—AUGUST 26.

G. Price, Tottenham-court-road, liquor-merchant.—I. Herbert, Middle-row, Holborn, bookseller.—J. Wheatley, Mark-lane, corn-factor.—W. Farrar, Salford, Lancashire, plumber and glazier.—J. Peacock, Kingston-upon-Hull, merchant.—R. Fricker, Portsea, builder.—G. Jones, Liverpool, bookseller and stationer.—A. H. Hart, Houndsditch, broker and auctioneer.—J. Marsden and J. Heywood, Marsden, Yorkshire, cotton-spinners.—J. Andrews, Manchester, innkeeper.—T. Orams, Stow-market, Suffolk, ironmonger.—T. Crump, Westminster-road, tinman.—R. Winter, White Lion-street, Islington, factor.—M. S. Haynes, Queenhithe, insurance-broker.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols....68¼ | Red. Ann. 68⅞ | Omnium..1¼ prem.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The great press of temporary matter prevents the appearance of several Communications designed for this day's Paper.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, AUGUST 6.

Notwithstanding all the expectations, and the rumours, that have been raised respecting the capture of Walcheren, no decisive information of that event has yet been received. It is said that the Master of a foreign vessel, which left the Dutch coast on Wednesday, and has arrived at Harwich, states its surrender as a matter well authenticated before he came away: the statement is highly probable; but these things have been authenticated so often, and afterwards detected so flagrantly, that they deserve no credit in themselves.—The welfare of the soldiers must be the chief object of anxiety to every thinking person; for though the Expedition may serve just now to divert the public mind from the disasters in Germany, it appears to be in every respect a most short-sighted project: if it conquer, what effect can it have upon Austria and Spain? BONAPARTE has done with Austria, and is it to be supposed, that when the interruption of that power could not deprive him of Spain, an expedition to Holland will be able to wrest it from him? The Ministerialists talk much of the Dutch, their grievances, and their desire of freedom:—the Dutch no doubt feel themselves grievously oppressed by the Conscription, but when a mercantile nation becomes a slave, it's occupation has contributed to render it the meanest of slaves; and what are the Dutch to obtain by throwing off the yoke, but a prospect of deliverance *barely possible*, and a long en-

durance of miseries worse than fifty conscriptions. Some writers say, that our object is purely British; but this is a phrase of no meaning: there can be no objects of armament in the present state of things, purely British, purely Spanish, or purely any thing: our object, whatever we chuse to call it, is to lower the power of BONAPARTE, and this we never shall do, till we do away old corruptions, pay an impartial regard to talent, get a greater insight into national character, resources, and opportunities, and in every respect broaden our ways of thinking, and our plans of warfare. In short, the Expedition has most probably outlived it's first purposes, and the Ministry, in despair of encouraging German insurrection, are making an attempt to encourage it any where. Now *any where*, or indeed *every where*, in times that require concentration, is *no where*.

In the meantime, there is talk of a treaty of peace between the two Emperors, in which FRANCIS is to cede Austria, and the Princes of the Confederation, as well as the kingdom of Italy, are to be aggrandised by contiguous acquisitions. Nothing of this is confirmed, but every thing, and much worse, is likely. BONAPARTE remains at his ease at Schoenbrunn, and from the palace of the Catholic King of the Romans, deals out his decrees against Roman superstition. At last, that execrable tribunal, the Papal Inquisition, is no more; and this event, so earnestly desired by all men of reason and common feeling, has been accomplished by the person, who has been called ANTICHRIST, the DRAGON, the BEAST WITH SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS, and lastly, APOLLYON, which every body sees is the same with NAPOLEON:—nothing can be clearer, except that APOLLYON would have done no such thing. There are a great many beasts with horns, in the shape of Princes, who would have preserved the Inquisition; but among the various devils that are said to possess mankind, whether PILLARDOC, the devil of interest, or ASMODEUS, the devil of luxury, or the devils that haunt "unclean places," I do not recollect one who, in the present time, would contradict his nature so far as to overthrow it. However it is overthrown, and PROVIDENCE is equally to be blest, whatever instrument it may have chosen for its great purpose. Little virtue as NAPOLEON may possess, the means he takes to conciliate the intellect of Europe are at times as grand as they are politic. In the same papers, which bring us an account of the downfal of the Inquisition, there is an order to look carefully after the pictures of RAPHAEL, and the Roman architecture. This goes at once to the feeling of artists, as the other decree does to that of philosophers. It is upon the same principle, that the French painters are under the special patronage of the Government; and that talent of every kind finds it's buoyancy encouraged. I do not mean to say, that we have not much better enjoyments in this country: we have, no doubt; we enjoy our firesides and our tongues: we have a limited monarchy, and no conscription: but there is nothing to hinder us from using the worthiest part of our enemy's policy; there is every thing in fact to demand it; and yet it is truly lamentable to see him in these matters getting the start of a nation which has been so celebrated for it's profound and liberal thinkers. We cannot emancipate the Irish Catholics, because they have been too long oppressed, I suppose, to be made free; and as to the arts, the art of getting money is the polite art just now; the rest must wait.

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THE EXPEDITION.

"*Harwich, Aug.* 4.—Intelligence has just been brought from the Expedition, by a foreign vessel which left the Dutch coast last Wednesday night. She had been with the Expedition from Saturday last—on that day about one P.M. she was in the midst of our Expedition, which was then about two miles distant from Flushing. They were then at anchor. Three guns having been fired at the British Admiral's ship, the whole of the fleet weighed and stood closer in. The foreign vessel then set sail for another part of the Dutch coast more to the Northward, where she remained until Wednesday night, when she received a short note by a fishing vessel, directing her to return with all haste to England, and adding, that "FLUSHING HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE ENGLISH."—By Flushing, the Master of the foreign vessel means the surrender of the whole Island of Walcheren. The above intelligence comes from a source that may be relied on."

Folkstone, Aug. 3.—The news we have by a boat this morning from Holland is, that some of our troops had landed on the Island of Walcheren, where there was no force to oppose to them; and that, as the boat passed Flushing, that place was then bombarding by our Expedition.

The Phœnix, Captain WALKER, arrived on Friday at Barking, from the vicinity of Walcheren. This vessel quitted its station on Tuesday morning last, at which time the Captain had a view of the Expedition, which was extended in a line from Flushing to Campvere. The Phœnix did not approach near enough to permit any observation of what was going on: but on Sunday night the Dutch were observed to have lighted alarm-fires along the coast. A heavy firing was kept up the whole of Monday, and towards the evening shells were thrown from various points. Capt. WALKER, not deeming it prudent to approach the fleet, left the scene of action early on the following morning, without learning any further particulars.

An account, says the *Kentish Gazette*, brought by some persons who left the Dutch coast on Tuesday last, and were landed on Wednesday afternoon near Whitstable, states that our troops were in possession of the Island of Schowen, and that a part of the Expedition was anchored in the Roompot, stretching from thence to Zierichzee, the capital of the island, by which they would command the eastern branch of the Scheldt.

On Wednesday, a Telegraphic order was received at Deal, for all the vessels, with the heavy artillery on board, lying in the Downs, to sail immediately to join the Expedition; and they all sailed on Thursday morning.

Preliminaries of Peace are said to have been signed between Austria and France. According to report, France has wrested from Austria all her territories on the right

bank of the Danube. The following are said to be the principal articles:—

"The Bavarian territories are to be extended to Vienna on the East, and following a line along the frontiers of Hungary to the Drau, to have ascended to the source of that river. A line is then described to Inspruck and Bregentz, and this new accession of territory is given to Bavaria. All the territory to the South of the Drau, including part of Carinthia, Carniola, Istria, Trieste, and Fiume, is added to the Kingdom of Italy. —The Tyrol is ceded by Bavaria to France.—Wirtemberg and Baden are to get some accession of territory in Franconia. —Bohemia and Moravia are to be retained by the House of Austria, as well as Hungary.—Russia is to obtain an increase of territory in Austrian Poland.—Saxony is also to have an increase."

The Gazette of last night contains an Order in Council, further proroguing Parliament to the 8th of September next.—Also an Order, taking off the General Embargo. A most gallant action, the history of which we will not hurt by partial extracts, will also be found in it. It is the first engagement we have had with the Russians for a long time, and it would be hard if we had not come off with glory from these semi-barbarians, who have owed their best naval victories to the instruction and command of British Officers.

Lord GAMBIER has been tried according to his request, and acquitted in consequence of a majority of witnesses in his favour. Three Officers, however, united in effect with the opinion of Lord COCHRANE; and as Lord GAMBIER's skill ought not to be called in question after the Court Martial's decision, so neither are Lord COCHRANE's motives to be interpreted in any other way than as the result of naval ardour and a consciousness of right. He is by no means to be considered as an accuser; he might have been one in the event of a proposition of Thanks, but as it was, his opinion was brought before the public; and while we recollect that prudence is one of the first qualities of a Commander in Lord GAMBIER's situation, intrepid caution is the very first of a Captain in Lord COCHRANE's, and in doubtful cases at sea between mere prudence and risk, the latter ought to be, and has been adopted to the great success and glory of our noblest Admirals.

American Papers to the 27th inst. have been received. The Non-Intercourse Act has been renewed, but this has been represented rather as a matter of course, until a final arrangement takes place, than as indicative of any spirit of hostility in the American Government against this country. In the House of Representatives, however, this subject produced warm debates, and even personal altercation of considerable violence.

Portuguese and Spanish Papers, down to the 14th ult. have arrived.—After all the assertions "from authority" in the Government papers, it appears that Sir A. WELLESLEY has not even yet joined Gen. CUESTA, though it is now said that he is advancing upon Madrid. The dispatches from Sir ARTHUR contain nothing of moment.—In the event of peace between France and Austria, the fate of Spain is decided.

The place-hunting DIXONS, after the dressing Mr. WAITHMAN gave them on Tuesday, will in future be a little more cautious of the notices they give. The allusions to *petitions for places*, *midnight broils*, and the *seduction* [illegible] wives, were palpable hits, well under- [illegible] City. [illegible] Altar-and-Throne BIRCH unfortu- [illegible] a speech from him on Colonel [illegible] would have been peculiarly edifying!

FRENCH ARTIFICE.—It is needless to bring back to the recollection of our readers every part of his Majesty's Speech on the late Prorogation of Parliament. Besides the usual formal matter, it treated of two topics; the "atrocious and unparalleled act of violence and treachery" in the attempt of BONAPARTE to enslave the Spanish nation, with the unconquerable resistance which that attempt excited in Spain; and the hopes afforded to Europe by the Austrian war which had then taken place. This Speech has been recently laid before the French People by their Government: it has reached this country in its new dress, and has furnished an amusing instance of the veracity of French official translations. In the first place, the whole paragraph which respects Spain is entirely omitted; so that there is not the slightest allusion to the war carried on in that country. Not content with this, the paragraph respecting Austria is falsified so egregiously, that an exposure of it will not be uninteresting.—His MAJESTY, instead of congratulating Parliament on the successes which the Archduke had then recently gained, is made to hold the following adulatory language:—"The uncertainty of human affairs, and the vicissitudes which accompany war, do not permit us to indulge too confidently in the hope that the contest will terminate favourably; for we have to contend against an enemy of an active genius, with whom every thing prospers, and all whose designs, even those which are most incredible, succeed."—In like manner, "the efforts of Europe for its own deliverance," referred to in the Speech, are changed into the "efforts made by Austria."

The following anecdote is in circulation.—"Sir W. CURTIS's yacht is the finest pleasure vessel belonging to any British subject; he spends 1600*l.* a year upon it; it was natural enough that he should desire to see something of the progress of the present Expedition from the deck of this favourite dwelling. He accordingly wrote a pressing request to Mr. PERCEVAL, for permission to sail with the fleet. Mr. PERCEVAL answered, that as a friend, he did not like to refuse Sir WILLIAM, but as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he could not write upon the subject to the Admiralty, unless the worthy Alderman would consent to put his vessel under their orders. Sir WILLIAM readily accepted this condition, and immediately began to perform his naval duties by storing his vessel with every kind of viands, substantial or luxurious, and abundance of the finest wines. The Marquis of HUNTLY and several General Officers readily enough accepted his hospitable offers to entertain them on their passage."

That Placemen, Pensioners, and Courtiers of every description, should have voted on *one side* only in the late Royal Inquiry, is not at all surprising; there is indeed nothing *novel* in it, as the following extract will shew: it is part of a speech made by Sir FRANCIS WINNINGTON in the corrupt times of CHARLES the Second:—"I did observe," (says Sir FRANCIS, who appears to have had the same hatred of corruption as his distinguished namesake) "that all those who had Pensions, and most of those who had Offices, voted all of a side as they were *directed by some great Officer*, exactly as if their business in this House had been to preserve their Pensions and Offices, and not to make laws for the good of them who sent them here."

At a meeting of the English Catholics, the Earl of SHREWSBURY in the Chair, it has been determined to present a Petition to Parliament on the same day as that of the Catholics of Ireland.

The dispute between Messrs. COLMAN and MORRIS, relative to the Little Theatre, has been sent by the LORD CHANCELLOR to a reference. Mr. MORRIS complains, amongst other things, that Mr. COLMAN, a prisoner in the rules of the King's Bench, cannot perform his duties as Manager; and it does certainly appear a little extraordinary, that a man confined in Surrey can be in constant attendance at the Haymarket.

THE METHODISTS.

Clerkenwell, 3d Aug. 1809.

SIR,—I have read with pleasure your EXAMINER from its first appearance, and whilst it is conducted in the same able manner, shall continue to do so; its impartiality is not its least pleasing feature, and as its columns are open to receive discussions upon Religion as well as Politics, &c. I presume this letter will receive a place there.

The principal object of this is, a reply to the letter of "an Inhabitant of Clerkenwell," which appeared last Sunday.—I too am an inhabitant of Clerkenwell, and as we both reside within "*the Dominions of the Republic of Methodists*," inhaling the same atmosphere, however contaminated it may be by them, we are so far upon equal terms.—I dare this person to a contest, in which I will undertake to shew the futility of his arguments, and prove that they strengthen that cause which he meant to ridicule. His subject is religion, and religion is of vast moment.—Levity and prejudice should not have place in the minds of those who discuss it. Polemical diquisitions hereon should be conducted dispassionately and with seriousness, and the nobler powers of the soul awe the passions into silence, whilst reason guides the man. This is not the case with him. Levity and prejudice are the prominent features of his letter, aided by a theatrical colouring, and a quotation from SHAKESPEARE. To prove the former, he diverts himself with calling the Methodists "scarecrows with black coats"—their residence "their land of Canaan," &c. Very witty, certainly. To prove the latter, I will advert to its general tenor. You perceive Sir, and every one must see that it is neither calculated nor written with an intention to improve the minds of those who read it. He sets out by taking it for granted, that the Methodists are wrong—hugs himself at the idea, and composes a sort of dialogue at which no reasonable person will condescend to smile, and for the authority of which we have only his own ipse dixit.—But I wish to inform this Gentleman, that the Methodists are not wrong, and I thus challenge him to dispute the point. It is very easy, Sir, for a school-boy to traduce the professors of religion, and any scribbler may be able to vent philippies against them. This will not do. I wish him to be rational and candid; to examine the first principles of their religion,—shew the effects they ought to produce upon the mind and in the practice—how far they are beneficial or dangerous to political or social life,—and how they are calculated to "bear down all who are of the Established Church." I have no objection to his making a pretty quotation from SHAKESPEARE now and then, but he must draw his proofs from a much greater authority,—and proofs he must adduce. Thus prepared, I shall be happy to meet him.

I am not a Methodist myself, but I venerate religion, and understand enough of it to put your correspondent a question arising from his own letter. He calls the Methodists "ignorant pretenders to sanctity:"—will he inform me if learning be essential to sanctity, or how ignorance is connected with it?

He says he is "elated, &c."—Can the person who attempts to handle the greatest of all subjects, religion, be elated with a few silly anecdotes? Astonishing! however, as it is so, I will present him one.—In a country town, more than two hundred miles from the "Republic of Methodists," where some of that denomination preached every week, a young man (a mechanic) embraced their doctrines, and joined their society. His master ridiculed them, and one day accosted the young man thus:—"Well Richard, what are you the better for becoming Methodist?"—His reply was, "before I became a Methodist I was idle, and neglected your business; now, I am anxious to serve you to the utmost of my power, and am satisfied with my own conduct, whilst engaged about your affairs." His master could not dispute this,—was pleased at it,—and never after jeered the young man about his religion.—I am, your's obediently, J. R.

PUBLIC ECONOMY.

Every arrangement that has a view towards this head, is certainly praiseworthy, and whoever suggests any regulation whereby public money can be saved, and the burthens of the nation alleviated, is entitled to the thanks of the community. But I think, Mr. EXAMINER, you will agree with me, that when a man professes to act for the public good, he should not have for his object any personal views of aggrandizement.

I am now about to allude to an economizing regulation which has lately emanated from the War Office, and circular letters have been issued to carry it into effect, whereby *one-fourth* is to be taken from the Regimental Agency, heretofore allowed, and the respective Agents of Regiments are so to govern their charges for Agency, from and after the 24th of the present month, accordingly.

It is said that Mr. MERRY, who holds a responsible situation in the War Office, is the author and projector of this scheme,—but it looks rather suspicious, that this view to Public Economy,—these *disinterested labours*, will not tend ultimately to the public good effect that is delusively held out,—for little or no credit will be carried to the aid of the public expence.

Mr. MERRY, it is understood, has succeeded in *another scheme* of his projection, which no doubt has for its object (what *appears to be always nearest his heart*,) THE PUBLIC ADVANTAGE:—this other *disinterested* regulation about to take place is, that the Examination Branch of War Office accompts will be formed into a *distinct establishment*, a ramification from its hitherto parent stock;—there are to be THREE COMMISSIONERS with liberal salaries appointed to superintend this new stupendous concern, at the head of which will stand Mr. MERRY's name, with a salary of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PER ANNUM, *at least*;—thus what is saved with one hand, is lavished away by the other, and the Public *gulled*, as it most likely will be, at the next meeting of Parliament, with the idea, that the popular suggestions of patriotic men meet with due encouragement and adoption in the public departments;—whereas in the instance of this last new arrangement it appears, that the money is taken from the Agents to give to the new esta-

blishment branching out from the War Office.—This is cleansing the Augean Stable with a vengeance.

July, 1809. DETECTOR.

BATTLE OF ASPERN.

Mr. EXAMINER,—I have been much pleased with the clear and instructive manner in which you have recorded public events; but in your remarks on the hoaxes lately passed on the public by the Ministerial journals, I do not recollect you have any where disturbed the credit of the Austrian Bulletin recording the battle of Aspern, which inclines me to think you admit it to be genuine, as you have observed upon it in general as a good document, though containing some exuberances and gasconades. Now really, Mr. Editor, I trust your extensive means of information will enable you to determine the question, whether this minute and studied detail of this battle, which raised such high and at the same time delusive hopes in the breasts of our politicians here, is of German or domestic fabrication? —for my own part, I think it bears no mark of authenticity, and appeared to me upon the very first perusal to be of English manufacture. Nobody knows from whence it came, to whom it was sent, or by whom received; circumstances which should have been stated when it was introduced to the public. It may be urged, this inquiry becomes of less consequence from the suspension of the contest; yet there is some satisfaction in knowing to what extent we have been deceived, as it may put us on our guard against those political jugglers, who make us the dupes of their deceptions, and most probably afterwards laugh at our credulity.—I am, Sir, your constant reader,

Church-street, Deptford, Aug. 2, 1809. C. R.

MIDDLESEX MAGISTRATES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—Being wholly unacquainted with the worshipful society of Middlesex, I am anxious, through the medium of your Paper, to be informed if those ornaments of the Bench, whose sage interpretation of the Law in the case of young SAPIN* was so dignified and humane, still continue to dispense justice, judgment, and mercy, to the inhabitants of this highly favoured country?

Were it not that our worldly experience gives us a wonderful idea of the latitude of the word *Impudence*, the very defence of these worthy Gentlemen would answer the question. Their mistake, it appears, originated in ignorance (utterly devoid of malice)—Arcadian, Midas-like simplicity. Indeed, poor men! let them quit the Bench, and we will pity them.

But if the newspaper reports of the evidence be correct, the conduct of this merciful trio was not a mere unconscious *negation of right*;—"You have been to Mr. Walford, the attorney! to acquire the knowledge how to get him back," said one of them to the witness—"What a pretty expence the lawyer will bring you in if you do." Here it is admitted he might be got back, but that it would prove expensive. Great God, *Mr. Examiner*, the blood ran back to my heart while I read this extraordinary intimation. Why it is barefaced, unmasked oppression, resting upon a presumed inadequacy of pocket! I know not of what mettle the Magistracy of Middlesex may be composed, but were I one of them, either these Gentlemen or myself would quickly abdicate its disgraced seat of justice.

Had Sapin been destitute of monied connections, we all know the consequence; he must have submitted to the most flagrant injustice and oppression. The impressed *seaman* is previously acquainted with his liability to the service, and however he may prefer the mercantile line, is not at once precipitated into hardships and difficulties out of the course of his experience. But under the colour of law, to drag a peasant from the plough, and condemn him for a small finable offence to the chains and discipline of the most atrocious criminal—to send him thus manacled to the hold of a ship, perfectly careless of his complete consciousness of their illegality, and of the maddening sense of injury which must have lacerated his bosom, is a peculiar mode of exemplifying the freedom of Englishmen, we seldom have the misfortune to see wantonly exhibited. Moral turpitude should at least have strength of motive; it should not be capricious.

To hear the handcuffers of SAPIN lecture a poacher for wiring a hare, would be delectably farcical.

At the last election, I believe one of these spirited Justices was nominated as a fit Representative for the County, by the worshipful *John Bowles*, Esq. Dutch Commissioner and Suppressor of Vice. If I recollect right, the sapient Candidate was much offended by the circulation of handbills asking *Who he was?*—Since SAPIN'S action, these impertinent querists may rest satisfied with knowing what he is.

The alleged cruelty of young SAPIN to his horse, and the conduct of these men upon this occasion, give me a melancholy presentiment of the arbitrary use which may be made of my Lord ERSKINE'S Bill. Had it, as he intended, extended to the passions of all ranks, it would at least have had the semblance of propriety; but confined to the protection of a certain species of animals, the owners of which are seldom the floggers, under the colour of humanity it is merely securing property. Now if property wants additional security, secure it without *cant*. The facility with which our disinterested Legislators enact penal statutes against certain orders of the people, is truly admirable; but propose to extend one to themselves or connexions, and the meek and benevolent Mr. PERCIVAL will inform you that no Gentleman of *honour* and *spirit* will accept of a place, if liable to a disgraceful punishment, for acting improperly or fraudulently therein.

I much fear, Mr. *Examiner*, that there is a very numerous set of people in the counties of Surrey and Middlesex, of whom the last-mentioned profound Statesman may be considered the legitimate leader. Some of these, it would appear, are in the Commission of the Peace, and seem much affected in their dispensation of law by the scale of contribution to the Income Tax. Like the magnanimous Society for the Suppression, &c. they make amends by a most ferocious enmity to the audacious vices of butchers, bakers, hair-dressers, and publicans, for their very lenient spirit of indulgence towards the gambling, the Sabbath-breaking, and the sporting cruelties of Lords, Ladies, and Gentlefolks. Look at the authors of this school—the *Bowles's*, the *Trimmers*, the *Mores*, and many others.

There are some certain favoured people, of two or three thousand a-year and upwards.—For these happy mortals the world was absolutely made; for them Creation smiles, *John Bowles* legislates, and *Mrs. More* writes. The direct poor are considered by them somewhat in the light of

* See *Examiner* of July 9.

Russian boors; to eat and drink sparingly, pray immoderately and profoundly, reverence their superiors, are their happy privileges, independent of the 'wide waste of labour.' Frequent also are the sneers of these self created whippers-in of their fellow creatures, at the vanities and aspirations of thriving tradesmen, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. Souls of my fathers! Mr. *Examiner*, a man to be foolish and vain with impunity must either exhibit a patent of gentility or possess a thousand a-year. —When I contemplate this as a commercial country, the energy, spring, and greatness of which, are fairly attributable to the free and unchecked spirit of exaltation and independence, with all its consequent train of frippery and folly, through all the grades of society, I cannot but smile at the expansive theory of these politico-religionists. This smile becomes a frown, when I reflect on the state of mental bondage to which the accomplishment of their views would reduce the major part of the community. That heaven may deliver us from the hatches and saws of *Christian* Ammonites, is the fervent hope of, Mr. Examiner, your constant Reader,

Thursday, July 13, 1809. Amicus.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 50.

HAYMARKET.

A new musical romance, called the *Viatagers*, from the pen of Mr. Eyre the Player, was produced here on Tuesday. It is the story of a French Duke, who in his travels incognito, after having married and abandoned an humble wife, returns to his native country, and in his government at Bourdeaux (I believe) is about to espouse a melancholy fair one who has just lost her lover. In the neighbourhood resides a British seaman with his daughter and grandson; the lad is also about to be married, and is presented with a purse and a ring by a noble stranger; he takes his sweetheart to see the Duke's nuptials, bribes the porter to let them in the church, and is taken up on suspicion of theft by this porter, who wonders to see so valuable a ring on his finger: not accounting satisfactorily about the stranger's present, he is tried and condemned to death in a very summary manner, when as he is proceeding to execution he is met by his afflicted grandfather, and then by his mother, who recognizes her husband in the Duke, and taxes him with his crimes: the Duke, impatient at being thwarted in his new love, denies his knowledge of her, but secretly advises the parties to escape; they refuse; the ring is produced and shewn to the intended bride, who knows it for her former lover's; and in the midst of this new agitation, the lover himself appears, throws the Duke, who had attempted his death, into an agony, and by closing the piece with justice to all parties convinces us, upon the most approved principle, NOW VICE, *though it may flourish for a while*—and so forth.—I detail these plots as diffusively as possible, not only in justice to the authors, whose knowledge of books and great love of antiquities are thereby honourably set forth, but because by long experience and the combination of ideas they give the reader as complete a picture of the whole piece, characters, dialogue, &c. as any thinking person could desire. For instance, the reader has doubtless, by this time, settled it in his mind that the Duke is a kind of dismal declamatory person, dealing much in suspicions and side growls, and very stately withal:—he is perfectly in the right.—Then again, with regard to the young lady; he figures to himself an interesting, expostulating young lady, full of sighs and unwillingness, contemplating perhaps the picture of a *young officer*, and saying *Oh Charles!* or *Oh Henry!* at decent intervals:—nothing can be more just.—Then the unknown stranger—

Reader. Muffled up, of course—large hat—small talk.

Precisely.—Then Liston—I forgot to mention Liston—he was—

Reader. An awkward coxcomb—makes much of himself, something of his author, and very little of a song—I see him before me.

You do exactly.—Then lastly, there is the sailor, who talks of nothing but—

Reader. O, for mercy's sake, Sir, spare us the sailor; I know him as well as his messmates in the street.—True blue, no doubt; but no more of that.

Yes, very true and very blue; true to his "King and Country," and blue to his very shoes:—a glorious body of voice, composed of sea-flowers of speech, British freedom, an oaken heart, a seventy-four of the same material, the "trial by jury," and "twelve respectable men."

Now what could possibly have induced Mr. Eyre to commence dramatist with such a stock of ideas? He has enjoyed the reputation of being a sensible man with a good education, and his style of acting was good enough to gain him credit for a tolerable conception of his author, though not for expression: but had he wished to become the very god of common place, he could not have *invented* a greater display of want of invention. The most prominent character of his style is a fondness for analysing things by their properties, and he resembles in this passion those merry-hearted verbs which, according to the Latin grammar, *gaudent genitivo*—take delight in a genitive case:—thus, at every turn of a sentence we meet with the something *of* something—and all in the antique style—the glow of independence, the start of embarrassment, the blush of shame, the palsy of fear—or phrases precisely of that nature. Mr. Eyre admires Johnson, and probably reads him with a true relish; but this is not Johnson's thinking, though it may put us in mind of his style. That consummate master of declamation renders all his peculiarities subservient to his philosophy, and gives them an original air by *contrast*, and by the nicest metaphorical adaptation. I will take a random instance or two. When he says of Addison for example, that he "knew the heart of man from the depths of stratagem to the surface of affectation," he presents us at once with a specimen of contrast and a beautiful translation of Horace's words—*Ego te intus et in cute novi.*—The "surface of affectation" is in itself a phrase of as little originality as the "depths of intrigue;" but a kind of wit is created by their collocation, and they throw light on each other in a very lively manner. It is the same with that maxim in the Rambler:—"The negative infelicity which proceeds, not from the pressure of sufferings, but the absence of enjoyments, will always yield to the remedies of reason." Here is a new thought expressed in a new manner, not with regard to the phrases "pressure of suffering," "remedies of reason," &c. but by the bearings of the thoughts on one another, and their mutual illustration: and again in a passage full of contrasts: "No return but scorn has yet been made to the most difficult of all enterprises, a contest with nature; nor has any *pity* been shown to the *fatigues* of

labour which never succeeded, and the uneasiness of disguise by which nothing was concealed." I am obliged to take these specimens in a hasty manner, but perhaps they are sufficient to shew Mr. EYRE that *thinking* must precede *style*. One would think it surprising to see any reasonable person, who must be aware of the gross defects of the dramatists, following them with a deficiency still more gross; but self-knowledge still remains the height, perhaps the inaccessible height of wisdom; our mental eyes look inwards as little as our corporeal; and self-love, whether in writing or in conduct, too often reduces us to the condition of the madman, who can see things as they are in another's hand, but fancies his own straw to be a sceptre.

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FINE ARTS.

AGRICULTURAL AND ALLEGORICAL STATUE OF THE LATE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

THE public statuary of this country has been chiefly confined to the seclusion of cathedrals, and the object of its erection therefore nearly counteracted. To gather the posthumous applauses of posterity, and to stimulate to excellence, it is indispensably essential that the statues of our illustrious countrymen should be made as public as possible. One such statue therefore erected in an open square, the admiration of the perpetual passenger, adds more to the embellishment and benefit of the Metropolis, than both our cathedrals crammed with statuary. Westminster Abbey is indeed injured by a sculptural plethora. I therefore congratulate the tasteful reader and the public, that the charming Muse of Sculpture is no longer altogether smothered up in cathedrals, but allowed to come forth into the cheerful light of Heaven, and receive the general admiration of her votaries, free of mercenary pay. I congratulate them on their acquisition of intellectual pleasure and profit, in the erection of a statue to the late public-spirited Duke of BEDFORD in the conspicuous and spacious area of Russel-square. Its proportion and general aspect in the approach from Bloomsbury-square down Bedford-place, which it faces, is elegant and noble. From the base to the apex the entire work is 27 feet high, and the figure of the Duke 9 feet. The whole consists of a double plinth basement supporting a pedestal, whose sides are in basso relievo, with emblematical figures of the Seasons on its corners, with a sheep on the middle of those in front, and the Duke standing on an elevation of rock on the centre; its frieze enriched with horses, oxen, sheep, goats, and swine; and its upper corners with bull's heads in full relief. The Duke in his senatorial robes displays his devotion to the important science of agriculture, by holding in one hand a bunch of corn, and resting the other on a plough. The four Seasons are personified by children. The first is placing on his head a wreath of flowers, the beautiful progeny of spring; the second has a butterfly on its finger, the fluttering emblem of summer; the third holds the autumnal cornucopia of fruits; and winter sits shrunken and wrapt in a mantle.—The two relievos describe the prominent incidents in husbandry. In one a husbandman is taking a refreshing draught out of a flask, his wife is dressing the dinner, while a youth blows a horn to gather his fellow labourers to the repast. A yoked ox evinces the nature of their employment. The other contains mowers, reapers, a shepherd and his dog. The basement is stone, and the pedestal Scotch granite. The figures are cast in durable bronze.

The requisite expression of the performance is forcible, and the Duke stands before us the truly illustrious patron of agriculture. He exhibits a sedate dignity. His body is in an attitude of tranquillity, but his soul on that account seems more actively thoughtful; absorbed in the contemplation of a science above all others conducive to national prosperity and happiness. The characteristic excellence of the sculptor, Mr. WESTMACOTT, is a mild grace. The attitude of this figure, and especially those of the infantine personifications on the pedestal, highly partake of this important attribute of his art, as does a female peasant in relievo, who, as she is bearing off the wheat, forcibly reminds us of "the lovely young Lavinia" of THOMSON. The graceful forms and attitudes of the infants, shew that the artist is familiar with the beauties of the antique, which so charmingly deviated from, or rather corrected, the immediate portraiture of nature, by uniting its select excellencies.—The figures in relief are very judiciously grouped, and have the peculiar aspect of peasantry in their countenances, air, and attitude. Were they not engaged in that manual labour which designates their condition, it would still be impossible to mistake them for any other race.

The performance, however, has its defects. The drapery of the principal figure is certainly disposed, in its general direction of form and outline, with grace; but I think, with deference to the tasteful artist, that the folds which wrinkle the stockings are too many and monotonous in the front view. The emblematical figure of Spring sits in the most conspicuous part of the front of the pedestal, with his back to the spectators. This is an offensive contrast to the rest, though no doubt designed to give variety to their positions on the upper angles of the pedestal. A sufficient variety might have been produced in these figures, without deviating into this awkwardness. The defects, however, are small, when compared with its beauties; and it must ever be recollected, in deciding on works of art, that the sublimest geniuses are defective. The beauties of the performance will add to the deserved reputation of Mr. WESTMACOTT, for if it does not reach the excellence of the Greeks, it is above mediocrity, and it peculiarly merits the praise of unaffected simplicity. If we are not surprised by vastness of conception, we are not offended by littleness. There is neither bombast on the one hand, nor tameness on the other. It is worthy of the personal character it honours, and is not unworthy of British renown in the Sister Arts.

R. H.

FASHIONS FOR AUGUST.

WALKING COSTUME.—A vestal robe of the finest India muslin or cambric, with a border of lace or needle-work round the feet, and continued up the front. An Austrian spencer, with carmelite hood, composed of white or silver-grey satin, or of Paris net, with an appliqued border of French lace, or Chinese trimming, confined at the throat with a silk cord and tassel. A cornelian cross, suspended from a gold elastic chain. French watch, worn on the outside of the robe. Parasol corresponding with the spencer. Shoes and gloves of lemon-coloured kid.

PROMENADE DRESSES.—I. A petticoat of cambric, bordered with needle-work at the bottom. An Egyptian vest

the same, with correspondent border, in primrose or straw colour. Drawn tuckers of French lace, finished at each edge with the same style of border. A provincial bonnet of fine moss or satin straw, ornamented with a cluster of the double stock in front. Austrian scarf of light blue sarsnet, tastefully disdisposed across the back and shoulders; the ends finished with gold or silver tassels. Shoes and parasol to correspond with the scarf. Gloves of York tan.—II. A cambric petticoat, richly bordered at the feet in needle-work and Vandyke lace. An Andalusian cossaque of shot sarsnet, edged round the bosom, and at the feet and wrists, with the same, and tied down the front with bows, and ends of white silk cord. A convent veil of French lace, thrown back so as to display the hair in front, which appears divided on the forehead, and flowing in irregular ringlets on each side of the face. Opera glass with gold Venetian chain. Parasol and slippers corresponding with the coats. Gloves of lemon-coloured kid.

CITY.

COLONEL WARDLE.

On Tuesday a Special Court of Common Council was held at Guildhall, and after the Requisition had been read,

The LORD MAYOR produced a Letter, dated 31st July, from *Mr. James Dixon*, the person who had given the original notice for rescinding the Vote of Thanks to Col. Wardle, which was also read. In it Mr. Dixon expressed his surprise at observing that the Lord Mayor had issued summonses for calling a Court of Common Council on Tuesday, on the subject of which he had given notice for the first Court day after the recess. It was not at the time he gave the notice, nor was it now, his wish to preclude Mr. Wardle from re-establishing his character in the public estimation, by such evidence as he might be able to adduce on a new trial. He understood the interval of the recess would afford time for such new trial; after which, and according to the point of view in which the conduct of Colonel Wardle should then appear to him, it would be in his power to bring forward or to depart from the notice he had given. As it was, he now gave notice, that he should not attend the Court summoned for Tuesday next.

After the Court had enjoyed a good laugh at this self-important epistle,

Mr. MILLER said, that as the person who had given the notice had fled from the discharge of his duty, which clearly proved that he was aware his notice would not meet with any support on reasonable grounds, he must take upon himself to discharge the duty for him; and should therefore simply move the Resolution of the absent Mr. Dixon, "That the Vote of Thanks to Colonel Wardle, being improperly entered into, be expunged from their books, and that the Town Clerk be ordered to expunge it accordingly."

Mr. ALDERMAN GOODBEHERE was astonished that the person who had given rise to the extraordinary proceedings of this day, had not manfully attended in his place to defend his conduct. As to the suspension of the proceedings, such delay would be an act of cruelty and injustice to Colonel Wardle, who alone had the courage to institute the Investigation, and the perseverance to bring it to that successful issue, which has obtained him the thanks of all England. For this great service, it is now clear that Col. Wardle sought no mean reward whatever; he had no secret purpose to answer, no pecuniary ends to gratify: the very tendency of the wretched accusations with which he is now assailed sufficiently proves that he has sacrificed both his time and his fortune to those patriotic ends which have rendered him at once an object of terror to the plunderers, and of regard to the British people. The worthy Gentleman who gave the notice of this motion is well known for being a staunch friend to every measure tending to bolster up the Administrations of the day; he always gives his support to those who can *give* in return: now, however, he has become very fastidious, although he could vote a Monument to Mr. Pitt, without inquiry into his private errors, as well as one to the illustrious Nelson, without once glancing at that gallant person's immoralities. All his nice feeling is reserved for Col. Wardle, though whether the charges against him be true or false, they can make no possible difference with regard to the vote in question, which thanked him for the *public* service he had performed, not for the example of his private conduct.—The Corporation has a political character to sustain: the country at large is looking to our decision, which no doubt will add weight to the efforts of those who are anxious to reform, not to conceal abuses. "With such views," said the worthy Alderman, "I shall now move an Amendment, which will go to the support of the great task of *Reformation*, a task which requires the united energies of all to co-operate in."—He then moved,

"That this Court did, on the 6th day of April last, express its thanks and gratitude to GWYLLYM LLOYD WARDLE, Esq. for his conduct in bringing forward and substantiating serious charges against the late Commander in Chief, which, notwithstanding the majority in his favour in the House of Commons, compelled his resignation. That no circumstance has since transpired which can in any manner lessen the importance of that investigation, impeach his motives, or affect the merits of the case. On the contrary, his unwearied exertions, perseverance, and fortitude, under unexampled threats and difficulties, have developed a scene of scandalous abuse and corruption, not only in the army, but in various departments of the State.

"That it has been discovered by the said Investigation, that these abuses have extended, not only to the disposal of Church and East India Patronage, but also to the disposal of Seats in the Legislature; and charges have been brought forward, and proofs offered, implicating in such corrupt and illegal traffic Lord Viscount Castlereagh, the Hon. Spencer Perceval, and the Hon. Henry Wellesley, all Members of the House, and then and now holding ostensible situations in his Majesty's Government, a traffic which, in the language of the Speaker of the House of Commons, '*Would bring a greater scandal upon the Parliament and the Nation than this Country has ever known since Parliament has had an existence.*'

"That the said investigation has also led to the discovery, that the said Lord Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, and late President of the Board of Control, did, in flagrant breach of his duty as a Minister, abuse of his patronage, and gross violation of the Constitution, place a Writership in the hands of Lord Clancarty, a Member of the same Board, for the purpose of obtaining for him a Seat in Parliament; which fact the said Lord Castlereagh has himself admitted, and notwithstanding there appeared *a smaller majority* in his favour, than appeared in favour of the Duke of York, in manifest injustice to his Royal Highness, and gross insult to the Nation, *the said Lord Castlereagh still retains his official situation.*

"That these attacks upon the vital principles of the Constitution have been made without punishment or censure; and motions for inquiry into such practices have been rejected upon the alleged frequency and authority of them; and Parliament has thereby, as well as by passing a Bill to prevent the sale of Seats in that House, recognized and acknowledged the corrupt influence under which it has been called together, and exercised its functions.

"That it was stated by Mr. Wardle, that there was an Office publicly kept open for the sale of Places under Government; and although such statement, when made, only excited the derision of Ministers and the House, it has since appeared, that the above statement was correct; and his Majesty's Ministers have indicted and convicted several persons concerned therein, and such practices were declared in the said indictment to have a tendency to degrade, vilify, and traduce, and bring into contempt the Administration of the Country.

"That by various statements which Mr. Wardle has lately submitted to Parliament, it appears, that by a correction of the frauds, abuses, corruption, and peculation, which have been found to exist in every branch of the public expenditure to which inquiry has extended, and a wise and honest application of our resources, the People might be relieved from heavy and oppressive burthens, if not from *the inquisitorial*

and most grievous of all imposts, the Tax upon Income. That his conduct on this occasion seems to have drawn upon him, in a high degree, the *malice and rancour of those who are interested in the continuance of these abuses.*

"That in the opinion of this Court, individuals who devote their exertions towards exposing and correcting public abuses are at all times entitled to the support and protection of the country, particularly at the present moment, when there appears an unabating effort on the part of those notoriously under the influence of Government, or who participate in the existing frauds, corruptions, and peculations, to cry down, vilify, and traduce every man who has courage and integrity to expose such practices, in order to mislead the public, and divert their attention from these great evils."

Mr. Box perfectly agreed in the propriety of coming to a decision on the question before the Court. He was ready to hold up his hand in favour of Col. Wardle, and admitted that the late trial had nothing to do with the question—the merit of Col. Wardle he did mean to depreciate; but at the same time, hoped the Court would reflect before it adopted the Resolutions which had been just read—for Resolutions so extensive in their application, ought, in his opinion, to have been made a distinct question for discussion. He thought it quite improper that Gentlemen should make this a party question, and sit in judgment on such high and exalted characters as Lord Castlereagh and others, who have served their country for a great number of years. (*A loud laugh.*)

Mr. GRIFFITHS said, that Col. Wardle had rendered a variety of services, besides the original investigation; he had exposed corruption on all sides,—the shameful traffic in seats, the abuse of India Patronage, &c. &c. and it is admitted even by those on the other side, that the trial at law cannot effect the public merits of Col. Wardle. As for not censuring Public Officers, the only way to have good servants was to look well after them, and if men in public situations were a disgrace to the country, they should be exposed, however long they had been in employment.

Mr. WAITHMAN made a very argumentative speech. He regretted that the Gentleman who had given notice of the motion was not present, as he had something to say which he could hardly express in his absence. He would say, however, that he had stated that which is not true,—that he gave notice of bringing forward this motion after the adjournment,—for it is well known that there is no such thing as an adjournment of this Court. This Gentleman would be thought, forsooth, the very pattern of morality, since he deems the *asserted* breach of a pecuniary engagement by Col. Wardle, as of sufficient importance to damn the whole merit to which he is unquestionably entitled! and he now modestly calls upon the Corporation, on this absurd ground, to rescind its own act, passed after the most solemn deliberation. But the hypocritical cant of this Gentleman shall be exposed. "Not long since," said Mr. W. "after the trial, he came to me to condole with me on the piteous situation to which Col. Wardle was reduced. 'Oh!' says the Gentleman, 'What a sad business is this! You can't think, Mr. Waithman, how it hurts me. Indeed I am so hurt! And, besides what shall we do, you know we can't let the Thanks to him stand on the votes now—Oh! I am so hurt about this business you can't think!!!' With this cant and hypocrisy he not only tried me, but he tried the Court all round, and at length, discovering that it would not do, he silently shrunk from the attempt for that time. And this is not the only time that that Gentleman has resorted to the cant of hypocrisy to carry on his designs, for I remember his coming to me on the occasion of a motion of Mr. Birch. 'Lord,' says he, 'what a foolish motion is this of Birch about No Popery!!' From his conversation, I soon discovered that he had been with the Ministry. He, however, assured me, that we should "certainly negative Birch's foolish motion,' and away he went, leaving me in the full persuasion he felt much anxiety to negative Mr. Birch's 'foolish motion about no Popery;' and yet did this very Gentleman afterwards actually vote on the same side with Mr. Birch in favour of his 'foolish motion.' But, notwithstanding these miserable shifts of canting hypocrisy, I will ask those who are now present, whether, in any single instance, this Gentleman has expressed the slightest degree of satisfaction at that discovery of abuses which gave to every true friend to his country the gratifying prospect of a correction of the lavish expenditure of the public money? I remember not even a solitary instance in which he has expressed any satisfaction at any such discovery of public abuses and corruptions." Mr. Waithman said, that it would be madness to look for the support of Contractors, Pensioners, Placemen, or *Place-hunters*. When questions of Reform were agitated, both *parties* united, the *Ins* and the *Outs*. With a few exceptions, all the Public Prints have abandoned Col. Wardle, for no other reason than that the tendency of his measures to destroy corruption, would at length have destroyed both these selfish parties. Mr. Waithman knew by experience the difficulties attending the attempts to extinguish corruption. When he exposed the Christ Hospital abuses, he was called an enemy to religion and social order by a Reverend Vicar, whose brother-in-law, he now found, was a pensioner to the tune of 1700l. a-year!—"Nothing," said Mr. Waithman, "is more common than for the friends and participators of corruption, on the discovery of facts that are clearly indefensible,—to turn short round and accuse the accuser of using that language called seditious—thus attempting to silence the arguments they cannot answer—by knocking every man on the head who exposes their corruptions. Has it, or has it not been proved, that there did exist a traffic for Seats in the House of Commons? If this important fact cannot be denied, where is the man who will have the hardihood to say, that it is not the part and duty of every man who pays the enormous taxes imposed on this nation, to expose even the immaculate Lord Castlereagh, or the conscientious Mr. Perceval, who has served the country so long?—(*Hear! Hear! Hear!*) The salutary Bill brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Martin, was opposed, because it was thought necessary to have the power of rewarding services. Of reward for services, Mr. Perceval enjoys, in addition to those of which he is in the actual possession—the pleasant reversionary prospect of forty-six thousand pounds per annum, which his brother now receives. When Col. Wardle stated in the House, that an office actually existed in Threadneedle-street, for the sale of offices and places, —What did this assertion produce? a horse laugh, and a most bitter and severe rebuke for having dared to vilify his Majesty's Government. But I would say to the Ministers of his Majesty what I should not hesitate to say to the House of Brunswick,—let them shew some anxiety to preserve *their own credit*, for that is what even common decency requires. And, most marvellous to tell, notwithstanding the horse laugh and derision of Ministers, and their host of adherents, in consequence of the discovery thus dragged forth by the intrepidity of Col. Wardle, a prosecution has been instituted by the Attorney-General, and the very persons pointed at by Col. Wardle have been tried and convicted of an offence, which tended to bring his Majesty's Government into contempt. Of what importance were it if Col. Wardle had actually given money to Mrs. Clarke to induce her to divulge what she knew? Has not the Government done the same thing—have they not been in the frequent and constant habit of doing it? And for what were some convicted and transported, and others tried, on the bare information of authorised spies and informers? For asserting that men practised those corruptions which have been since acknowledged to exist by the Speaker of the House of Commons, who expressed his reprobation and detestation of that practise. Even members of the present administration have been compelled to endure the accusation of a traffic in seats in Parliament, which it was beyond all their ingenuity to disprove. Have we not even seen men executed on the evidence of spies and informers, who have assisted in plunging these unhappy persons into irrevocable acts for which they suffered! Surely I am not incorrect in speaking of facts, which are known to exist as certainly as the light of the Sun; and if, as we now see, men are liable to prosecution for such actions, we may surely be allowed to speak of them without incurring the risque of transportation to Botany Bay, or of being overwhelmed with the abuse of *venal, hireling newspapers*, to

which, however, no man can be more indifferent than myself. —I think I know all the circumstances of Col. Wardle's proceedings in the prosecution of the investigation—and a more honourable man, I firmly believe never did exist. However, for the sake of argument, I will allow him to have broken his word, to have bribed Mrs. Clarke; in short, to have done whatever the absent gentleman might please; let him have done what he will, his conduct cannot have altered the nature of the thing. The accusation against the Duke of York has been *fully proved by the concurring testimony of unwilling witnesses*, corroborated by the irrefragable proof of written documents.—of letters under the hand-writing of the Duke himself. Let us however suppose, that Col. Wardle was a member of the Society for the Suppression of Vice; let us suppose that he had in this Court called on his fellow citizens for protection to their wives and daughters—Let us suppose that he had attacked, and afterwards debauched the wife of his bosom friend!!!—still I say, that infamous as must be his private character, even these circumstances can have no weight in the consideration of his public conduct. Let us suppose that Col. Wardle had passed his nights in gambling—that the debts which he contracted to support himself in that scandalous practice he refused to pay—that in his progress through the streets at midnight he should be guilty of outrages against decency and good order, by getting into midnight broils, and rescuing from the hands of justice prostitutes and their associates. Let us suppose, to form the climax of his moral depravity, that he had increased his fortune by plundering the public under the sanction of an Act of Parliament;—still I say, these atrocities would not alter the *facts* established by Col. Wardle, of the existence of corruption, or lessen the beneficial consequences of their exposure. If even the conduct of Colonel Wardle had been marked by treachery, hypocrisy, and fawning meanness, by writing a letter to Lord Grenville, soliciting advancement for a relative, and adding, that much as he desired his relative's advancement, he was unwilling to accept the favour from any other hands than those of his Lordship—and if he had then had the baseness, when he found his Lordship's power was tottering, to strike down the reeling Minister, in order to make court to his successor, it might be asked, where shall we find a cavern dark enough to mask such infamy? Yet even this concentrated mass of infamy heaped on the head of Colonel Wardle; nay, even his conviction for a highway robbery on Hounslow Heath, could not alter or affect the *facts* which he has established in the House of Commons. But of none of these outrages has Colonel Wardle been guilty. Let therefore no man cast stones till he has looked around him! I trust I have thus convinced the Court, that so far from any circumstances having occurred which can induce us to rescind the thanks that have been offered to Colonel Wardle, the facts that have since been made public entitle that exalted character to the further Thanks of the Corporation of the City of London."

Mr. J. DIXON said, he and his brother were prepared to receive any species of rebuke from Mr. Waithman, whose praise alone they dreaded. On proper occasions, they should be at no loss to justify their conduct. With respect to the denial of Mrs. Clarke, of the co-habitation of Colonel Wardle with her, all that he could say was, that Mr. Waithman was very anxious to prove the chastity of Mr. Wardle, but, "for my own part," said Mr. Dixon, "if I had been with her at the Martello Towers, I certainly should have had more intimate connexion with Mrs. Clarke than Colonel Wardle states himself to have had."

Mr. MAWMAN would have voted against rescinding the motion, but was averse to concurring in Alderman Goodbehere's Amendment, on the principle of its being foreign to the purpose of the day, and taking the Court by surprise.

Mr. STOKES did not approve of the language which had been held to-day respecting placemen and *place-hunters*: he thought it unnecessarily personal, although it did not affect himself; for he disclaimed all connection with Government, and assured the Court that he never begged any favour of any Minister. He objected to the proposition of the worthy Alderman, because new matter was brought up by it, such as suited not the purpose for which the Members of the Court had been summoned.

Mr. WAITHMAN explained. He said that the Court could never be taken by surprise on such a topic. The sale of Seats in Parliament was too notorious. He himself had been offered fifty seats on *certain terms*. Is it not high time to make a stand when the country is bent to the ground by taxation; when 200,000l. a-year is squandered upon pensioners; and when the people are cheated of thousands every year? To some people, nothing is so offensive as the *exposure* of abuses; the abuses themselves are nothing.

Alderman ATKINS thought it would be improper at present to rescind the Vote of Thanks to Col. Wardle; but objected to the Amendment as irrelevant.

Mr. Alderman WOOD supported the Amendment. He thought Mr. Wardle had been the means of saving the country. Had it not been for him, the Duke of York might have been at the head of the Expedition; and then God knows what might have happened.

Mr. MAWMAN said, that the object of the Gentlemen who said that they were of no party, seemed to be to throw the government of the country into the hands of Mr. Wardle and his party. This he was not prepared to do; for he thought the country had no sufficient security that either he or his party were able to conduct it.

Mr. WAITHMAN said, that till the system of corruption was rooted up, no party could do any good in the government.—Their object was to root out this system. He could not help remarking, however, that when the system itself was attacked, the two parties immediately joined together to support it.

After some further obsevations the question was put, Whether the original motion or the amendment should be the question? It was carried by the shew of hands in favour of the amendment.

Mr. MAWMAN then moved an Amendment, leaving out the whole, except the two or three first words, and substituting these words—"That there did not appear any reason to rescind the Vote of Thanks," &c.

Mr. SAMUEL DIXON supported this Amendment, which he observed, formed a perfect contrast to the complicated farrago drawn up by the Gentleman opposite (Mr. Waithman), and his associates.

The question was then put, whether the Resolution or the Amendment should be the motion.—The LORD MAYOR, on a shew of hands, decided in favour of the amendment. A division, however, was called for, when there appeared—For Mr. Alderman Goodbehere's Resolution, 3 Aldermen, 54 Commoners, 2 Tellers—59. Against it, 1 Alderman, 51 Commoners, 2 Tellers—54. Mr. Alderman Goodbehere's Resolution was, of course, carried by a majority of five.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

TRIAL OF LORD GAMBIER.

PORTSMOUTH.—FIFTH DAY, JULY 31, 1809.

The Court having ordered the witnesses to withdraw, *Lord Cochrane* observed, that it was not the custom of Courts Marshal to exclude witnesses during the defence.—The *President* replied, that in the present instance it was the wish of the Court that witnesses should be excluded.—To this Lord Cochrane begged to observe, that on the trial of Admiral Harvey, the witnesses were allowed to remain: he therefore submitted that there was nothing irregular in their being present at the defence.—The President here said, "My Lord Cochrane, it is the pleasure of the Court that you withdraw."—On which Lord Cochrane left the Court.

The *Judge Advocate* then, at the request of *Lord Gambier*, read his Lordship's defence, which in substance was as follows:—

Lord Gambier expressed his satisfaction that the whole of his conduct in Basque Roads was now before a Court Martial called at his own request. The charge brought against him, at the instance of Lord Cochrane, was, that on the 12th of April, the enemy's ships being then on shore, and the signal having

been made that they could be destroyed, he had for a considerable time neglected or delayed taking the proper measures for so doing. He was ready to admit that some time had elapsed on that morning before the enemy was attacked; but he was prepared to prove incontrovertibly that no unnecessary delay took place; "and," observed Lord Gambier, "I have the satisfaction to find, that out of all the officers summoned, the charge rests on the unsupported, and I may say already refuted testimony of the Captain of the Imperieuse. I believe there is not a precedent to be found in the naval annals of Britain, of an officer of the rank I have the honour to hold, commanding a fleet which has performed so important a service as that accomplished under my direction,—approved as that service has been by the Admiralty, and considered by Government as even deserving the thanks of Parliament,—being obliged, from a sense of what is due to his own character and honour, as well as to the profession to which he belongs, to appeal to a naval tribunal against the loose and indirect accusations of an officer so much his inferior in rank. Lord Cochrane however warned the Noble Lord at the head of the Admiralty that if the thanks of the House were proposed, he, if standing alone, would oppose it, so far as regarded the Commander in Chief; thus directing his hostility personally at me, and making his attack as publicly though not as fairly as if he had exhibited formal charges.—Lord Cochrane, as a Member of Parliament, most assuredly may support or oppose public measures as he thinks proper: in the present proceedings, however, he stands only in the situation of an officer serving under my orders, as the Letters to me from Lord Mulgrave will fully shew. Whether Lord Cochrane supposed he might with impunity endeavour to lower me in the opinion of my country and my Sovereign, signal marks of whose favour had at this instant been exclusively conferred upon himself,—whether his Lordship thought he could exalt his own reputation at the expence of mine;—and whether he expected that his threat would intimidate me into silence,—I know not; but if these were his ideas, he will find himself in error, for I will never permit any man to proceed as Lord Cochrane has done, without availing myself of the means which the laws of my country afford to shew the futility and injustice of such an attack. Lord Cochrane, after making certain undefined accusations, excuses himself from explanation by a general reference to the log and signal books of the fleet, without knowing, if I may judge from the imperfect state of his own log, what that reference might produce. Therefore, because he does not accord with me in opinion, Lord Cochrane, whose extent of responsibility has, perhaps, never exceeded a single ship, and to whom in judgment I will not reduce my experience to a comparison, becomes my accuser,—whilst from my situation I am responsible for the safety of the whole fleet. Lord Cochrane has had no cause for accusing me of any dereliction of duty, and it might almost be supposed something had occurred in my personal conduct to his Lordship, which had afforded grounds for dissatisfaction. The contrary, however, is the fact: more liberality could not have been shewn than Lord Cochrane received at my hands; and though a considerable degree of disappointment was manifested throughout the fleet on his arrival to conduct the fire-ships, yet every officer rendered him the most valuable assistance, the credit of which seems entirely to be assumed by his Lordship. Lord Cochrane, after the action, complained generally of the officers; but I aver that their conduct was highly meritorious. However highly courage is to be valued in an officer, it is always incomplete in its consequences without judgment and discretion; it being the duty of a Commander not only to destroy his enemy, but to do it with the least possible loss; and no service ever required more judgment and discretion than that alluded to. The points under the consideration of the Court are,—whether the lapse of time between the discovery in the morning of the enemy's vessels being on shore and the attack, was not absolutely necessary for the advantageous accomplishment of the intended service;—whether it was not my duty, as Commander in Chief, to be governed by a general view of all the circumstances, rather than yield to the suggestions of one junior officer;—whether an earlier attack would have been attended with greater advantages:—in short, was there not accomplished, at the time the attack was made, all that could at any time have been effected?—In support of these propositions, I undertake to shew, as indeed is already in evidence before you, that had I not delayed sending in the ships till the time I did, the loss of ships and lives would, in the opinion of all the officers of the fleet, have amounted to a large proportion of the force employed. Yet it seems that I am now represented as deserving of censure for having prevented that wanton destruction; but I am satisfied the Court will find that not a single additional ship of the enemy would have been destroyed by a more early adoption of the measures employed. I will venture to express my firm conviction, that during the whole period which is the subject of inquiry, and more particularly on the very day on which I am charged with a neglect of duty, it will be found by this Hon. Court that in the previous arrangement I exerted the utmost faculties of my mind; and that at the moment of attack I acted with all the zeal an officer could evince whose duty it was to consider the preservation of his own fleet, as well as the destruction of that of the enemy."—Here his Lordship's defence branched out into a detail of all his proceedings, from the moment of his going in quest of the French fleet, which had run out of Brest, down to the day of attack in Basque Roads. A number of official letters were also put in and read, the General Orders, &c. &c.—Lord Gambier stated, that the fire-ships in part failed in their object, though by the terror they excited, the enemy were induced to cut their cables, by which they ran aground, and were exposed to the ensuing attack. When Lord Cochrane made the signal that seven sail were aground, and that half the fleet could destroy them, the tide was too far spent to admit such a force being sent in, with the possibility of returning in case of disaster, before the flood, which would have locked up our ships within the enemy's confined anchorage during the whole of that tide. Here they would have been exposed not only to the point-blank shot from the batteries, but also to the broadsides of the two line-of-battle-ships then lying in Aix Roads, which, without the batteries, must have entirely crippled every one of our ships in their approach. Some of the guard-ships were also in a situation to bear upon the entrance.—The idea entertained by Lord Cochrane, that a force could have been sent in so as to have arrived before low water in the morning was preposterous and impracticable.—Here Lord Gambier detailed his plan of attack; the Etna, the only bomb present, was sent in, with the Insolent, Conflict, and Growler, gun-brigs; and the Bellona and Revenge, with the frigates, were directed to take an advanced anchorage, as near as possible to the Buoyart shoal, to be in readiness to proceed to the attack as soon as the water had sufficiently flowed to enable them to do so. Between 9 and 10 A. M. much before the flood would enable the commencement of effective operations, the fleet ran in and came to anchor within three miles of the fortress of Aix. As the tide made, three of the seven ships which had grounded on the Palais Shoal succeeded in warping off and getting up the Charante. The two line-of-battle ships at their anchorage also took advantage of the flood, and made for that river.—Most of these five ships now ran aground at the mouth of the Chara*, and were never assailable. "These movements," observed Lord Gambier, "were not to be prevented by any means that I could adopt, with the smallest chance of success, without putting his Majesty's ships to the most unwarrantable peril, and when, as Rear-Admiral Stopford emphatically describes, 'Our's would have been all the loss, and the enemy's all the advantage.' The wind blew directly in, so that in the event of our ships being crippled, which appeared inevitable, it would have been impossible for them to have worked out, or to have retreated to an anchorage out of the reach of the enemy's shot and shells; the consequence of which would have been scarcely less than their utter destruction. These serious impediments induced me to delay the attack; and I think the Court will allow that I am completely borne out in what I have stated, by the sentiments of Lord Cochrane himself, who when he came on board the Caledonia, after the action, said to me, that had I acted upon his signal, and sent in at that time half the fleet, he calculated upon the loss of three or four line-of-battle ships. And I have

also to observe, that if I had sent in a force before the three ships had warped off the Palais Shoal, it is a positive fact that it could not have advanced to the attack of those ships on account of the shoal water."—His Lordship's defence here stated, that an attempt was made in the afternoon by Admiral Stopford to attack the five ships at the mouth of the Charante, but the vessels employed were in such a perilous situation, that Admiral Stopford before day-light on the 13th, withdrew them from the service, not however till it plainly appeared to all the officers that certain destruction would have followed their remaining any longer in the Roads.—Lord Gambier was willing to give Lord Cochrane the fullest credit for his personal bravery, and for his judicious manner of approaching the enemy in the Imperieuse. Though the fire-ships partly failed, yet the general result was so successful, that he had no hesitation in expressing his public approbation of Lord Cochrane's conduct. All the officers called have allowed that no neglect on his (Lord Gambier's) part took place. There were three log-books of the Imperieuse, and they all differed from each other. These documents were formed after the events took place, and he submitted to the Court whether they could be deemed evidence. The signal of recal of the 13th of April, said to have been observed by the Imperieuse, was never made by the Caledonia; and the signal of the 14th, recorded in the log-book of the Caledonia, as made by the Imperieuse, "that if permitted to remain, can destroy the enemy," is denied by Lord Cochrane ever to have been made. As to the accuracy of the French charts, Lord Cochrane has himself expressed at times very opposite opinions. Lord Cochrane, in his evidence, talked of the very heavy responsibility that would attend his going without encouragement to attack the enemy at the mouth of the Charante; yet he appears to have been unmindful of the far heavier responsibility attached to the Commander in Chief, whose care was not confined to a single frigate. Lord Cochrane says that 74-gun-ships may go into an inner anchorage between the Buoyart Shoal and the Palais Shoal at any time, and that the tide rises only 10 or 12 feet. By Lord Cochrane's French chart it appears there is a bank to pass over with from 18 to 20 feet at low water. By the charts of the Master of the Fleet and the Master of the Caledonia, it appears there are only from 14 to 19 feet, and the bank full of knolls; under these circumstances, no man in his senses would venture a 74 over it, even in the smoothest water, at less than three-quarters flood. Lord Cochrane's assertion that two or three sail of the line could have passed to leeward of the two French ships, was not the fact,—the thing was impracticable, as the witnesses will shew;—and his statement of the force of the Aix batteries was equally incorrect and unfounded. When the Commander in Chief in the first instance told Lord Cochrane that Sir H. Neale would be sent home with the dispatches, his Lordship seemed much dissatisfied. Lord Gambier's sending Lord Cochrane to England, with orders to go to the Admiralty, certainly betrayed no desire of concealment, nor any apprehension of any representation Lord Cochrane could make. In the report made by Lord Cochrane to Lord Gambier before the attack, his Lordship confesses that he erred five points of the compass respecting the direction in which the French fleet was moored. He was also as incorrect in his statement that three of the enemy's ships were so near to each other, that their yards were locked; for such was not the fact; they were laying perfectly separate and detached from each other, as the evidence will show.—"It now only remains for me," said Lord Gambier in the conclusion of his defence, "to request the attention of the Court to some conclusions which I think may be drawn from all these statements, by which I flatter myself it will fully appear,

"1. That during the whole of this service my most unwearied attention was applied to the destruction of the enemy's fleet.

"2. That in no part of the service was more zeal and exertion shewn than during the whole of the 12th April, when I had necessarily two objects in view—the destruction of the enemy's fleet, and the preservation of my own; for the extreme difficulties in approaching an enemy closely surrounded by shoals, and strongly defended by batteries, rendered caution peculiarly necessary.

"3. That three out of the seven of the enemy's ships aground were totally out of the reach of the guns of any of the ships that might have been sent in, and that at no time whatever could they have been attacked.

"4. That the other four of the eleven ships of the enemy were never in a situation to be assailed after the fire-ships had failed in their chief object.

"These are the points on which I rest my justification, trusting that it will appear to the Court that I did take the most effectual measures for destroying the enemy; that neither neglect nor delay did take place; and, on the contrary, that it was owing to the time chosen by me for the attack that the service was accomplished with so little loss. Had I pursued any of the measures deemed practicable by Lord Cochrane, I am firmly persuaded that the success would have proved more dearly bought than any yet recorded; and neither accomplished the expectations of the Admiralty, nor the hopes of the country. If such too were the foundations of his Lordship's prospects, it is but just they should vanish before the superior considerations attending a service involving the naval character and most important interests of the nation. I conclude by observing, that the service actually performed has been of great importance, as well in its immediate effects as in its ultimate consequences; for the Brest fleet is so reduced as to become no longer effective. It was upon this fleet that the enemy relied for the succour and protection of their West India Colonies; the destruction of their ships was effected in their own harbour, in sight of thousands of Frenchmen; and I congratulate myself and my country that this important service has been effected, under Providence, with the loss only of 10 men killed and 35 wounded; and not even one of the smallest of our vessels disabled. The difficulties and dangers of this enterprize were extreme, and the gallantry and determined spirit of those engaged most conspicuous. These merits and those difficulties ought not to be depreciated on account of the trifling loss sustained. By these observations I by no means seek to arrogate to myself any merit; but I make them as a tribute of praise due to the zealous services of the brave officers and men under my command, and with a view of pointing out how justly they are entitled to the gratitude of the country."

After Lord Gambier had concluded his defence,

Mr. Fairfax, master of the fleet, *Mr. Stokes*, master of the Caledonia, and *Captain Bligh*, of the Valiant, were examined. They entered into minute details of the situation of the British and French squadrons in Basque Roads, and all of them bore testimony to the great exertions and skill of Lord Gambier on the service in question. They, in fact, completely coincided in opinion with Lord Gambier as to the impracticability of destroying any more of the enemy's ships, and the great risk to the fleet there would have been in making any further attempt.—Adjourned.

SIXTH DAY—AUG. 1.

This day was occupied in the further examination of *Captain Bligh* and *Mr. Stokes*, and in the examination of *Captains Beresford* and *Kerr*—*Mr. Raven*, master of the Cæsar—*Captain Douglas*, of the Bellona—*Lieut. Hawkins*, of the Caledonia—and *Captain Godfrey*, of the Etna. *Captain Rodd* and *Mr. Fairfax* were re-examined. They were unanimous in declaring that to their knowledge the Commander in Chief had exhibited the utmost zeal and judgment during the whole service.—Adjourned.

SEVENTH DAY—AUG. 2.

Sir H. Neale, Captain of the Fleet—*Capt. Hardiman*, of the Unicorn—*Capt. Seymour*, of the Pallas—*Capt. Newcombe*, of the Beagle—and *Capt. Kerr*, were examined: they all agreed that every thing possible was done by Lord Gambier to effect the destruction of the enemy, with the exception of *Capt. Newcombe*, who observed, "that he could state no instance of neglect or misconduct in the Commander in Chief, save and except, had the Commander in Chief thought it proper, in his situation, to have sent the vessels in earlier than they went, although there might have been great risk in so doing, there

was a possibility of annoying the enemy more that they were annoyed."

Lord Gambier here declined calling any more witnesses, and the Court, after calling in a witness or two to ask a few questions, adjourned.

EIGHTH DAY—AUG. 3.

Capt. Kerr was re-examined as to the loss his ship sustained on the 12th, from the Isle of Aix batteries: he said that 3 men were killed and 15 wounded; the ship was also much damaged in the hull and rigging.

Capt. Malcolm was again examined; he thought that there was a delay of half or three quarters of an hour, by the Commander in Chief, in sending in the fleet to destroy the enemy. Had it appeared to him that there were no other means of destroying the enemy than by sending in the fleet at an earlier period, he thought they should have been sent in, notwithstanding the annoyance from the batteries. It was however the received opinion that the enemy's vessels would all have grounded at the mouth of the Charante, where it was thought they could have been destroyed by the fire-ships without risk; had the fire-ships been ready, he thought some of them would have been destroyed; but though they were prepared with all expedition, it was too late.

The evidence of *Captains Bertrand, Ball*, and *Newman*, was not material.

Capt. Broughton, of the Illustrious, did not think the batteries on the Isle of Aix were so strong as had been reported, and he mentioned this to Lord Gambier. He thought it would have been more advantageous if the line-of-battle ships, frigates, and smaller vessels, had gone in at half flood, between 11 and 12 o'clock, for though they would then have been exposed to the fire of the two ships at anchor and the Aix batteries, yet they were partly panic struck, and might have been reduced to cut their cables in order to escape up the river. If the enemy had not run, but defended themselves, though the ships would have suffered, it was his opinion that ships could have been placed so as to have silenced the batteries. He told Sir H. Neale in the morning that he thought the enemy were attackable, from the confused state they were in. Had the ships been so damaged by the batteries as to have been compelled to withdraw, he conceived there was anchorage for them out of the range of shot and shells. He always believed the French charts were correct. Two ships of the line would have been quite sufficient to silence the batteries on the Isle of Aix, and five to have attacked the enemy's ships; he thought they would have made but little resistance, as few of them could have fought their guns.

Capt. Kerr was re-examined: he was of opinion that had the Revenge and any other 74 attacked the batteries in order to silence them, that they would have been completely dismasted, and have suffered a great loss in men; and if dismasted, with the wind blowing N. they would have been lost.—Adjourned.

NINTH AND LAST DAY.—AUG. 4.

The Court being met, the *President*, addressing Lord Gambier, desired to know if his Lordship had any thing further to offer to the Court?

Lord Gambier replied, that he had nothing more to add, but requested the following paper to be read, which was assented to:—

"Mr. PRESIDENT—I closed my evidence on Wednesday in the full persuasion, that having established every part of my defence, it was unnecessary for me to examine further witnesses, the more especially as I had called all the officers who were in Aix Roads, and had been actively engaged in the attack on the enemy. Their testimony would, I conceive, be more acceptable to the Court than that of other witnesses, deriving their knowledge from subsequent information.

"The Court, however, in the exercise of its discretion, thought proper to call all the remaining witnesses. I heartily rejoice that nothing has been omitted to render the inquiry most complete. It is with no inconsiderable degree of satisfaction that I find in their depositions testimony equally honourable to me with that of the officers before examined.

"Some positions laid down by two of these witnesses have been so completely refuted by other evidence brought forward, that I feel myself confirmed in my opinion, that the measures I pursued for the attack of the enemy were those best calculated for the advantageous attainment of the object in view.

GAMBIER."

Lord Cochrane being called before the Court, the *President* acquainted his Lordship that he had received his Lordship's letter; upon which the Court having deliberated, had determined, that as it did not in any way relate to the subject matter of the charges against Lord Gambier, they could not enter upon the subject of it.

Lord Cochrane requested, that his letter might be entered upon the minutes of the proceedings.

The Court was then cleared, and after upwards of three hours deliberation, was again opened, when the *President* informed Lord Cochrane, that the Court had taken his Lordship's request, that his note should be entered upon the minutes of the Court, into consideration, and agreed that it should be entered upon the minutes of these proceedings.

The letter was then read as follows:—

"Having learned from my brother Officers that a report has gone abroad that I censured in general terms the conduct of the Officers employed in the road of Aix on the 12th of April, I wish to have an opportunity to declare the truth on oath, considering reports of that nature highly injurious to the service of our Country.

"I am also desirous to lay before the Court the orders given to the fire-ships for their guidance, as these will tend to elucidate and clear some of those who consider that blame has been imputed to them.—I have the honour to be, &c.

Admiral Sir R. Curtis, President. COCHRANE."

SENTENCE.

The *Judge Advocate* then read the Sentence as follows:—"That the Court having duly deliberated on the evidence in support of the Charge exhibited against Admiral the Right Hon. Lord Gambier, and having also minutely weighed the evidence adduced by his Lordship in his Defence, have determined that the Charge, 'That Admiral the Right Hon. Lord Gambier, on the 12th day of April, the enemy's ships being then on shore, and the signal having been made that they could be destroyed, did for a considerable time neglect or delay taking effectual measures for destroying them,' *has not been proved* against the said Admiral Lord Gambier, but that his Lordship's conduct on that occasion, as well as his general conduct and proceedings as Commander in Chief of the Channel Fleet employed in Basque Roads between the 17th day of March and the 29th day of April 1809, was marked by zeal, judgment, ability, and an anxious attention to the welfare of his Majesty's service, and therefore do adjudge him to be most honourably acquitted, and he is hereby MOST HONOURABLY ACQUITTED accordingly."

The *President* then addressed his Lordship as follows:—"Lord Gambier, I have peculiar pleasure in receiving the commands of the Court to return you your Sword, which I do in the fullest conviction that you will use it as you have hitherto done, with advantage to your country and your own personal honour. *(Returning him the Sword.)* Having so far obeyed the commands of the Court, I beg you will permit me, in my individual capacity, to express to you the high gratification I have upon this occasion."

Lord Gambier replied:—"I cannot sufficiently express the sense I feel of the patient attention of the Court, and beg to return my thanks to you, Sir, for the obliging manner in which you have conveyed to me their sentiments."

The Court was then dissolved.

MARRIAGES.

At Falmouth, Mr. Wm. Simmons, aged 68, to Mrs. Ann Murley, aged 55, being the third time each of them had attended at the hymeneal altar.

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